vatya, your idea of the highest taught in the Sama is finite
and if any one were to say ' May your head fall off/ surely ^
your head will fall off/' Then Salavatya said, " Well then,
let me know this from you." " Sir, know it," replied Jaivali.
Then Salavatya asked " What is the goal of Brahma? "
^Theall-luminousAAas/^, sky", replied Pravahana/ 'for, all the
mighty beings take their rise from the *Akasha* and have their
setting in the *Akasha,* the *Akasha* is greater than these,
that is their refuge. He indeed is higher than the high.
He is the *Udgitha,* is the Infinite."
Sections 10 and 11 give the interesting story of Ushasti
Chakrayana, a learned Brahmana priest. In reply to the
question of the singer of a particular hymn as to who the
deity of that hymn was, Ushasti said, " Prana " and added
(t All these features merge into Prana (Breath) alone and
from Prana alone do they rise. And this Prana is nothing
but Brahman."
The story is also interesting from a social aspect as it
shows that people of the highest castes have had no objection
to accepting food from those of the lowest. Ushasti Chakra-
yana gladly accepts a part of the meat which he sees an
elephant driver eating when the former is on his way to a

king's palace in search of priestly offices, and if he rejects his
host's offer of water, it was not because it was contaminated
by the latter's touch, but because apparently, he did not
like to drink water from a pot which had already touched
the lips of another man. An extract from Raja Ram Mohan
Roy's " *Abridgment of the Vedanta* bearing on this matter
is • reproduced below :—

" Although the Veda (Upardshad) says, " That he who has true faith in the Omnipresent Supreme Being may eat all that exists *', *i.e.,* is not bound to enquire what is his food, or who prepares it, never-
theless the Vedanta limits that authority thus : The above mentioned
authority of the Veda for eating all sorts of food should only be observed
<it the time of distress, because it is found in the Veda. that Chakrayana
(a celebrated Brahman) ate the meat cooked by the elephant keepers